

Vaccines for Children Program

What is the VFC Program?

VFC is a federally funded program that supplies free vaccines to eligible children 18 years of age and younger. This program was created by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 and began on October 1, 1994. In Indiana, qualifications include those on Medicaid, without health insurance, or are American Indian or Alaskan Native.

What are the benefits to clinics and patients?

1. Removing financial barriers to vaccination.
2. Saves parents and providers out of pocket expenses for vaccines.
3. Medicaid reimbursement \$8 per shot.
4. Reduces referrals, so patients stay in their medical homes. Ensures continuity of care.
5. Clinic assessment of vaccination rates conducted yearly by the ISDH Assessment, Feedback, Incentives, and exchange (AFIX) staff.
6. Advanced notification of immunization news and educational opportunities via the ISDH Vaccine E-letter.
7. Approved rural health centers (RHC) and federally qualified health centers (FQHC) can also provide free vaccine to underinsured children.

How does my clinic become enrolled?

A one-hour enrollment visit is required for all clinic staff administering VFC vaccine. Also, your clinic must have direct access to a fax machine.

Vaccine storage requirements?

1. A household sized refrigerator/freezer is preferred (11.0 ft³). However, single unit refrigerators (4.9 ft³) and freezers (3.0 ft³) are allowed. Sizes listed are minimum requirements.
2. Thermometers are required for both the refrigerator (35°- 46°F or 2°- 8°C) and freezer (≤5°F or ≤15°C). Certified calibrated thermometers are preferred.
3. Temperature readings must be taken twice a day during business hours.
4. Vaccines cannot be stored in the doors or drawers of the refrigerator or freezer.
5. Private stock must be clearly separated from VFC stock.

How much paperwork?

Only two pieces of paperwork are to be completed regularly and faxed to ISDH: an order form and a tally sheet. Children and Hoosiers Immunization Registry Program (CHIRP) eliminates the tally sheet.

What vaccines are available?

All ACIP/CDC recommended childhood vaccines are available to order. This includes combination vaccines and pre-filled syringes.

Who to call?

ISDH Immunization Program
1-800-701-0704

www.statehealth.in.gov/programs/immunization.htm



Indiana State
Department of Health